



Red Robin, Vol. 1: The Grail

Christopher Yost, Ramón F. Bachs (Illustrator), Art Thibert (Illustrator)

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Following the aftermath of BATTLE FOR THE COWL, a new Batman watches over Gotham City. But not everyone is ready to give up on the old one. Someone believes that Bruce Wayne may still be alive...and that someone is Red Robin. But who is wearing the Red Robin costume, and why is he traveling the globe looking for a dead man? Whoever he is, he's not alone in his search and has been targeted by the League of Assassins. What does Ra's al Ghul want with Red Robin? Why are members of the League of Assassins being targeted for death? And what happened to the life Red Robin left behind?

Red Robin, Vol. 1: The Grail Details

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From Reader Review Red Robin, Vol. 1: The Grail for online ebook

Ryan says

Decent story with some teen angst and solid art. Unfortunately, there are too many characters to keep track of for the uninitiated.

gingey reads says

I think I just don't have enough context to properly appreciate this? May return to it after I understand more of WHAT IS HAPPENING.

Other thoughts:

- TIM MY POOR KID I BELIEVE IN U
- damian no
- this isn't news but i'm still batfam trash
- also this was scheduled to arrive on tim's birthday and i am very sad that it arrived late.

Alexa Wayne says

I never thought I'd be a fan of Tim Drake. Jason Todd being my favorite of the Robins when he became Red Hood, I wondered how Tim Drake would grow out of being Robin. However, I became intrigued, so for my birthday I bought all four volumes of Red Robin and started reading them in one sitting. I wanted to know where the story was going and how he would outsmart a few villains and prove that Bruce Wayne was in fact, still alive. Amazing! I recommend this to everyone and give Drake a chance!

Kenny says

Poor Tim Drake/Robin. Your mother is dead, your father is dead. Bruce Wayne & Dick Grayson, Batman & Robin, took you in when you had no one; Bruce made you his adopted son. Tim Drake became Tim Wayne.

But now, Bruce Wayne is gone. Everyone believes him dead. But you know better. He's alive. Bruce Wayne is alive. You know it in your heart of hearts ... but no one believes you.

Wait -- there is one man who has believes you -- one of Bruce Wayne's greatest enemies, Ra's al Ghul.

Thus, the first volume of Red Robin begins. In the aftermath of Final Crisis and Batman: Battle For The Cowl, the Batman books were shaken up considerably. Dick Grayson became Batman, and Damian became Robin. That left the former Robin, Tim Drake, without a hero identity. He became Red Robin, a hero

originally created by Alex Ross for his classic graphic novel, *Kingdom Come* (interestingly enough, in that book Dick Grayson was Red Robin), and off to find the Batman Tim went.

On the original Robin title, writers like Chuck Dixon and Fabian Nicieza spent years transforming Tim Drake from a teenage hero to a mature, credible detective.

The *Grail* follows that pattern as Tim travels the world (Madrid, Paris, Berlin, Baghdad) searching for clues to Bruce Wayne's whereabouts. Along the way, Tim reluctantly partners with members of Ra's al Ghul's League of Assassins (one of which is a bald woman named Prudence). That partnership forces Tim to ask himself just how much he's willing to straddle the line between good and evil in order to achieve his desired end.

The *Grail* is a lot of fun to read, especially if you've followed the Tim Drake character over the years. As Tim makes this heart-wrenching transition in his life, he has a few heart-to-heart talks with Wonder Girl, The Spoiler, and even comes to blows with Dick Grayson and Damian. The more you read it, the more you realize this is the next logical chapter in the character's life.

Yost also conveys Tim's loneliness and isolation very well. Most of the people in his life think he's crazy or in denial for believing Bruce Wayne is still alive. But he believes it with such passion and intensity that he ostracizes himself from the people he cares about, and that conflict and frustration come off really well.

This book has a really nice feel to it. Tim is isolated, but he also has some of his trademark wit so the book doesn't turn into a giant sob story.

The *Grail* is a good read. It won't exactly blow you away, but it's good storytelling, with good characterization and good art. As a reader, that's what I wanted to see out of this book. Tim Drake has been one of DC's most intriguing characters in recent years. The *Grail* doesn't drop the ball in that respect.

James DeSantis says

I've been talking to people, letting them know if my comic ever got going and I was approached by DC to take on a character it would be Tim. Not because I love him, but because I believe he hasn't been all that interesting of a character in anything I read. (If you want to hear more about my pitch let me know! I'll post it/PM you!)

However, this is the first Tim-only story I read, and I actually dug it!

So Tim is lost. His parents are dead, Dick took on Damien as the next Robin, and he is the only person to believe Bruce is still alive. So he goes on a search to find him. On the way he's approached by Assassin's hired by none other than Ra. Whom also believes Bruce to be alive and tells Red Robin to join him so they can find him together.

It's really interesting to see Tim's inner turmoil. I feel for the guy. He's a young adult/teenager trying to find his place in the world. He won't give up on Bruce because Bruce wouldn't give up on him, and that's something special. I also enjoy the main storyline and a few twist here and there keep it fresh.

If you want a pretty darn good Red Robin story this is the one to grab. Reading volume 2 very soon.

Kati says

Art by Ramon Bachs: Great action sequences and vibrant pictures. The only weak point, for me that is, are the faces of the characters: their features are very rough, not sharp enough, not... well, pretty enough, to be honest.

Story by Christopher Yost: Fascinating story, well written and perfectly interconnected, not told in a linear way, but every scene has its own place. It's a character piece and at the same time, there's a large picture that you don't see until you have all the pieces.

I'm loving this story of Tim Wayne, formerly known as Tim Drake. He has lost everything: his father is dead, his best friend Conner aka Superboy is dead, Bruce aka Batman - Tim's adoptive father - is dead and he has lost his status as Robin to Damien Wayne, an obnoxious brat that Dick, the new Batman, chose as his Robin. Tim's the only one who believes that Bruce is still alive, somewhere, but his friends think he needs psychiatric help, that he lost it after Bruce died. And consider the irony - the only one who believes him is Ra's al Ghul and his League of Assassins that Tim ends up leading against the Council of Spiders. Yes, for Tim, everything is about shades of grey these days...

Jedhua says

My Brief Bookshelf Overview: gave-up-before-finishing, hell-of-a-ride, unrealized-potential

Additional Notes: This collection contains *Red Robin* issues #1-5.

Tries and (mostly) fails to be serious, though not altogether a waste of time.

Jackie says

Their was only one major problem I had with Chris Yost's storytelling. There's no doubt that Yost understands the character of Tim Drake, and the obvious similarity - personality and mindset - he has with Batman. But when it comes to the execution of the story, I was confused on plenty of occasions.

Yost constant use of flashbacks - especially when it didn't further the plot - threw off the pace of the story completely. I think there were parts of the story were the flashbacks weren't even properly stated to inform that reader it's even a flashback. I could be wrong, maybe I should read it again. But from the first read, I cannot say I enjoyed it very much.

Diego López Ocón says

This just wasn't enough, the story is short and it only moves a little bit from what is going to be the big picture. (The Return of Bruce Wayne)

Sam Quixote says

Following the death of Batman/Bruce Wayne, Dick Grayson assumes the cowl and becomes the new Batman with Damian Wayne as the new Robin. Tim Drake feels that Bruce isn't dead and begins searching the globe, following his footsteps in Grant Morrison's story "The Return of Bruce Wayne", to pick up clues that Bruce is still alive and is slowly making his way, through time, back to present day Gotham. In order to find Bruce though Tim has to ally himself with one of Batman's greatest foes – Ra's Al-Ghul.

Chris Yost does a decent job of writing Tim Drake as an interesting character but I think there's not enough meat for a full blown two volume series here. Yost is basically following in Morrison's footsteps, but "Red Robin" isn't necessary to read to follow Morrison's Batman story arc, it's more of an add-on for the hardcore Batfans out there who'll read anything and everything about this series.

I like Tim but like Dick Grayson when he was younger and starting out as Nightwing, I think the teen, coming of age heroes are less interesting than when they're older and have more experience. Here Tim acts exactly his age being melodramatic and hot-headed, making mistakes, and nearly dying for them. That kind of character doesn't warrant an entire book and the book feels like what it is throughout – side story blown up to become a kind of main story.

Tim Drake/Red Robin is an interesting character with some hidden angles that aren't really gotten into in this book (he's darker, willing to cross lines Batman can't) and I think the potential is there to develop him into a more substantial character but he needs his own storylines rather than playing off of Morrison's Batman story arc that will always have Drake as a secondary character even in his own book. Decent script, decent art, but a book that fails to show Red Robin as a superhero worth reading – yet.

Kerry says

Hmmm... not sure what to say. It could be that I'm just not feeling very well and can't focus on the book, but I'm just bored and right now I can't finish it. Not sure what I expected, but maybe I will revisit it some day.

Donovan says

This begins with a Spanish politician's daughter being kidnapped and held for ransom. Red Robin, Tim Drake, takes down armed guards and an incendiary cyborg in order to save her. Red Robin seems skillful but

cold and objective, almost stoic. And I'm wondering if I'm going to like this...

But then comes the flashback vital to character building, to instilling sympathy in the reader. And I feel for Tim, I really do. Post-Final Crisis and Battle for the Cowl, Bruce is gone and presumed dead. Dick takes over as Batman and Damian as Robin, leaving Tim in an awkward place. Dick says he needs Tim but not as Robin, while Damian, like a little shit, is horribly smug toward Tim. Tim naturally is angry, sad, and most of all lost. So he leaves Gotham to (in his opinion) find Bruce who he thinks is still alive. But meanwhile he's fighting crime on his own around the world to (in my opinion) grieve and find existential catharsis, making him maybe one of the most contemplative men of the Bats family yet.

I loved everything about this. The artwork is sharp and rich. The characterization and dialog are excellent. Tim is complex, far beyond a punch drunk sidekick. And there's real mystery here. He's mixed up with the League of Assassins and the Council of Spiders while piecing together Bruce's whereabouts, and he's got evidence that's he's still alive. How this series ever went out of print, I do not know. But I'm willing to spend \$28 to read Vol. 2.

Khunsa says

BEST TIM DRAKE COMIC EVER.

Michael McLendon says

Batman and Robin and the Return of Bruce Wayne show us a Tim Drake that never gave up on Bruce. This is that story and if you like Tim Drake I think you'll dig it.

Frank M says

Turned out to be one of my favorite DC series.
